



Successful Auction, New Repeater Effort Fully Funded, Storm Spotter Training this Month
Page 2



Monthly Meetings Now at the Red Cross, Storm Spotter Training this Month
Page 4



Which Ground Should I Use?
Page 6

Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

February 2017
Volume 18
Issue 2

FWRC FOXHUNTING PLANS FOR 2017

It's time for YOU to start planning for the upcoming foxhunting season. Foxhunts will occur on Sundays in the months February through November. We knock off for December and January. The dates established for 2017 are as follows:

5 February,
5 March,
2 April,
7 May,
4 June,
9 July,
6 August,
10 September,
1 October, and,
5 November

A foxhunt in any particular month can be rescheduled once within that month (due to weather, civil riots, Godzilla attacks or other unforeseen events). If the rescheduled hunt subsequently cannot be executed for whatever reason, then there will be no hunt that month.

The fox can be located anywhere in Allen County.

The fox must be located on publicly accessible property. It can also be located on private property provided the fox has obtained permission from the property's owner to do so, and the fox makes



it known to the hunters that it is on private property during fox transmissions (at least several announcements to be sure all hunters are aware of the fact).

The starting point for the hunters is the River Greenway Trailhead (Cobin Memorial Park) near the Lakeside Golf Course.

Starting time is nominally 13:30 local time.

Hunt duration is limited to 2 1/2 hours unless all participants agree to extend it during a particular hunt.

The "fox" normally consists of a high-

power fox and a micro-fox. The high-power fox transmits an FM signal strong enough to be heard and DF'd from the Cobin Memorial Park starting point. The micro-fox is a low power microprocessor controlled cw transmitter, typically on the order of tens of milliwatts that is the actual quarry of the hunters once it is localized by virtue of the high-power fox. It is at the fox's discretion if they employ a microfox in the hunt or not. They may choose to just run with a high-power fox only, although that makes the hunt less fun in my opinion.

Continued on Page 7

Also this month

FWRC Auction Results.....	3	Contests / Repeaters	10
Local SKYWARN Net.....	8	Membership Application.....	11
Special Event Stations.....	8	Local Nets / Classified Ads...	11
ACARTS New Meeting Place..	9	Activities Calendar	12

Internet Home Pages

Fort Wayne Radio Club:	http://www.FWRC.info/
	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FWRC/
ACARTS:	http://www.acarts.com
Fort Wayne DX Association:	http://www.qsl.net/fwdxa/
ARES:	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Allen_Co_IN_ARES/
IN_PACKET Yahoo Group:	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IN_PACKET/

Allen County HamNews is a monthly joint publication of the Fort Wayne Radio Club (P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN 46885), the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society (P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN 46851), and the Fort Wayne DX Association.

Please send any articles, classified ads, or other information to the editor, Ken Helms, AB9ZD, at **AB9ZD(at)ARRL.NET**. Please put "For Newsletter" in the subject line. Most text and graphics formats are acceptable. Microsoft Word and JPEG are preferred if separate files are used. For those without computer access, please mail your submission to either of the clubs post office boxes.

The deadline for the each issue is a few days before the end of the preceding month.

Hamsplatter

Fort Wayne Radio Club P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to February! We are that much closer to spring, although January was rather warm for this part of the country. Speaking of weather, I should remind everyone that this month's meeting will be replaced with the Allen County Storm Spotter Training being held on Tuesday February 21, at 7pm, at the Public Safety Academy on the south side of Fort Wayne. This is free to sign up for, and I would love to see more new faces involved in this activity.

January was our annual Club Auction, and I think it went fairly well with the club raising about \$350 or so. I would like to thank all those who donated items for the club to auction, Paul Prestia for the actual auctioning off of items, and KU8T, WB9SSE, W9SAN, W9DJS, and W8ST for their help in putting in all the time and effort to pull the auction off.

One of the items of business that was taken care of during the auction, was the general membership voted to authorize the expenditure of up to \$8,500 total to finish the Parrot Rd project. To date there has been close to \$7,000 in received donations for this project, so at most there will be a less than \$1,500 hit to the club treasury. This is an outstanding amount of support from the members of this club, and is something we all can be proud of. The idea, now that we have allocated the funds, is to have all the items needed for the antenna installation on hand as soon as possible, so that on the next good weather day we can have the tower climbers install everything. Once that is done, it should be a matter of a few days or so to



move the earmarked repeaters to the new site. Stay tuned for further details.

As I mentioned last month, myself and AB9IZ, Phil, were going to try to participate in the January VHF contest as a rover. Well, we did try. The antenna system worked very well, easy to set up and tear down. However, Mr. Murphy came along for the ride as well, and we had radio problems just about from the start. For whatever reason, the 706 we were using became very garbled on both the receive and transmit in USB, but was just fine using FM. After struggling most of the afternoon with next to no progress, we stopped at my house to pick up a different radio for at least 6m, and that seemed to work well, but that left us with only FM for 2m and 440. Even though we didn't make many contacts, we still had a good time, and learned a few things for the next attempt!

Have a great month, and hope to hear you on the bands.

Don't forget the first foxhunt of the year is on Sunday, February 5, starting at 1:30 pm, with the start location the same as last year, Cobin Memorial Park, right next to the old Kmart building on Coliseum Blvd. The fox will transmit on 146.43, and all are welcome to participate.

Charles Ward



February 21: Allen County Storm Spotter Training on Tuesday, February 21 at 7pm at the Public Safety Academy on the south side of Fort Wayne.

Officers

President

Charles Ward, KC9MUT
260-749-4824
kc9mut(at)yahoo.com

Vice President

Carole Burke, WB9RUS
260-637-1989
wb9rus(at)comcast.net

Secretary

Al Burke, WB9SSE
260-637-1989
aburke55(at)comcast.net

Treasurer

Bob Streeter, W8ST
260-672-9737
w8st(at)arrl.net

Communications

Fred Van Kempen, KA4YBR
260-467-3384
decwiz(at)yahoo.com

Directors

Linda Nardin, W9LAN
260-482-4039
lannshs(at)hotmail.com

Tom Rupp, KU8T
260-437-4676
gmrepair1(at)aol.com

Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ
260-247-2806
phixher(at)gmail.com

Steve Nardin, W9SAN
260-482-4039
w9san(at)arrl.net

W9TE Trustee

Carole Burke, WB9RUS

Webmaster

Jay Farlow, W9LW

Unless otherwise scheduled, all meetings are held at 7:00 PM at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, 4700 Vance Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN.

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

The January, 2017 meeting of the Fort Wayne Radio Club occurred at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on Friday, 20 January, 2017 and featured the annual FWRC Auction. A total of about 50 people attended the event.

In addition to the auction activities, President Charles Ward, KC9MUT conducted a brief business meeting wherein he addressed the status of the Parrott Rd. repeater project. He noted that at the November 18th, 2016 regular club meeting, the club had accumulated \$5,177.00 in the Parrott Rd. Project fund, and a club vote held at that meeting authorized up to \$5,177.00 in expenditures towards the project.

Since that date, additional income had swollen the fund to \$6,098.95. In the mean- time the repeater crew had procured the vhf and the uhf antennas, and the materials needed to install the equipment enclosure on its foundation and to route power from the WLDE transmitter building to the repeater enclosure at the base of the tower.

The repeater crew was ready to procure the additional materials needed to complete the job and had concluded that the total cost of the project, including the expected cost of the antenna/feedline installation contractor would total about \$7,900.00. If the total came in at \$7,900.00 and if we were to realize no more than the \$6,098 already collected, we would have to fund the difference out of the Treasury in the amount of about \$1,800.00.

In order to get on with things Al Burke had requested the club approve a total of \$8,500.00 (to allow a little pad in the \$7,900.00 estimate). A motion to approve the \$8,500.00 figure was put on the floor, seconded and voted in the affirmative by the club members attending the meeting. As a result, the repeater crew will proceed with procurement of the additional items so that they are in place and available to the installation contractor when the weather breaks and it's reasonable to work on the tower.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, FWRC

AUCTION RESULTS FOR 2017

This year the annual Fort Wayne Radio Club auction was held on Friday, January 20, 2017. There were 32 attendees who signed in for an identifying number for the auction.

A total of \$532.50 changed hands as a result of the auction. The auction benefit to the Fort Wayne Radio Club (as seller #1) was a \$322.50. The club also received \$21.00 in fees from various sellers (the club benefits by 10% of the sales made during the auction). There were \$8.35 in donations to the club to make reimbursement convenient during checkout following the auction. The total benefit from the auction to the club was \$351.85.

Additionally, since this was announced as the termination of the 2016 matching fund drive for the new repeater system on the WLYV tower, the club received an additional \$283.00 in anonymous donations.

The total benefit to the club, which will be earmarked for the WLYV tower repeater project, was \$634.85. This is certainly a record benefit for any Fort Wayne Radio Club auction, and speaks to the generosity of the Fort Wayne area amateur community.

Additionally, the club gained 5 new/renewing members and family members during the auction.

There were 19 active participants this year (excluding the club), with 1 individual who both sold and purchased items. There were 13 participants who only purchased items, and 5 participants who only sold items. In total, there were 7 sellers at the auction including the club itself.

I really appreciate the help of W9DJS, KU8T, WB9SSE, KC9MUT and W9SAN in helping arranging for the auction and in keep track of the auction proceedings, and in behalf of the club I want to thank Paul Prestia for his auctioning abilities.

Bob, W8ST, Treasurer



A photo from the FWRC auction. More photos on page 9.

State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN

ACARTS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you know, ACARTS has a new meeting place for the general meetings. Thanks to Joseph, K9RFZ, for securing conference rooms C and D at the Red Cross for our meetings. The space is much larger and has the use of A/V equipment.



the radio direction finding techniques that the CAP uses to find downed aircraft. It sounds like a very interesting presentation and I hope to see many of you there. Thanks again to Joseph, K9RFZ, for arranging this program.

The January meeting at the new facility attracted several new people, some as a result of the letters that were sent to new hams in Allen County, offering them a one year membership in ACARTS at no charge. Welcome to the new members that joined ACARTS at that meeting.

The January meeting was a big success in getting the thoughts and ideas of the members and new people as well as to what kind of programs and activities they would like. Many topics for programs were suggested. The officers and board of ACARTS will work to bring many of those ideas to fruition. Thanks to those of you that attended the January meeting and made their thoughts known.

There will be no ACARTS general meeting in February. It will be replaced by the annual SKYWARN training at the Public Safety Academy on our regular meeting night, February 21st.

The March meeting on March 21st will be a presentation by Tony Vining, 1st Lt, Fort Wayne Composite Squadron, of the Civil Air Patrol. It is entitled the Civil Air Patrol's "CAPabilities Brief" and will cover

April is our Spring Banquet. It will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April, 18th, at Hall's Guesthouse. Mark your calendars and make plans to be there. I will begin taking reservations the first of April.

As you can see, it is starting out to be an exciting year for ACARTS. I hope that you make plans to attend at least a few meetings and events.

73,

Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

President



February 21: Storm Spotter Training at 7 PM at the Public Safety Academy, 7602 Patriot Crossing, Fort Wayne, IN.

Unless otherwise scheduled, all General meetings are held at 7:00 PM at the Red Cross Center, 1212 E California Rd, Fort Wayne, IN. Board meeting are held at the Salvation Army Facility.



ACARTS Officers

President

Dave Lindquist, W9LKH
260-485-6135
w9lkh(at)comcast.net

Vice President

Joseph Lawrence, K9RFZ
(260) 373-1986
k9rfz(at)yahoo.com

Secretary

TJ Walker, W9QHY
260-704-0235
w9qhy(at)aol.com

Treasurer

Howard Pletcher, N9ADS
260-747-5252
hrpletch(at)gmail.com

ACARTS Managers

Manager for Hamfest:

Jim Boyer, KB9IH
260-489-6700
kb9ih(at)arrl.net

Station Managers (Acting)

Dave Lindquist, W9LKH
260-485-6135
w9lkh(at)comcast.net
and Jim Boyer, KB9IH
260-489-6700
kb9ih(at)arrl.net

W9INX Trustee:

Dave Lindquist, W9LKH
260-485-6135
w9lkh(at)comcast.net

Directors at Large

Bob Erb, N9PWM
260-466-7772
roberterb(at)hotmail.com

Bernie Holm, K9JDF
260-485-0164
bgholmmg(at)earthlink.net

Norm Kirkpatrick, KD9HAV
260-437-3003
normnpat(at)gmail.com

ACARTS GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 17, 2017

Meeting called to order by Dave, W9LKH

Discussion on upcoming programs.

February: Skywarn

March: Repeater Interlink

April: Banquet at Halls.

May and following months are open at this time.

Howard, N9ADS went over the budget. Motion to accept the budget made by Dave Van Doorn, W9WEL second by Steve, W9SAN.

Joseph, K9RFZ was thanked for securing the Red Cross for meetings.

Ideas for meetings:

1. Antennas for HF (HOA restrictions, interference)
2. SDR technology (software and rigs)
3. DMR
4. Radio Direction finding (RDF)
5. Portable/Mobile operation
6. Packet Radio
7. Make and take kit
8. Technology for new Hams
9. Antenna modeling software EZNEC
10. HF operations

11. ARRL what is its structure

Carl, K9LA gave a presentation on attending Pacificon and SDR receiver.

Made by CountyComm designer is Ed Wong he used Silicon Labs chip and designed an LF/MF/HF receiver in an HT package. The receiver operates on 100 KHz to 30 MHz and FM band. Also has AM/LSB/USB/CW/FM. The receiver costs \$60.00

Jim, KB9IH spoke on setting up a charter to establish a steering committee for Hamfest as a way of involving more members and to disseminate the structure of operation. General information about the club was also discussed since our attendance was comprised of new attendees. A request is made for a station manager, activities manager.

The main point is what can we do to breathe new life into the club to promote the club. Joseph, K9RFZ presented possible program topics:

1. Civil Air Patrol - RDF for Downed Aircraft
2. Northern Indiana Repeater Linking Project
3. AEP Power Line Safety and Infrastructure Design

4. Receiving NOAA Satellite Images
5. Making Contact Via AmSats and the ISS
6. Monitoring Railroad Traffic and Other Unusual VHF/UHF Signals
7. Strategies for Teaching Amateur Radio to Beginners
8. Special Event Station Hunting and QSLs
9. Ham Ready - Emergency Preparedness When All Else Fails
10. Tracking RFI
11. The NTS Method and Technique

Some Projects to Consider:

1. New Ham / Refresher Workshop
2. Operating Winter Field Day
3. Working with a Scout Troop to Earn the Radio Merit Badge
4. Sponsor a Special Event Station (we'll find something to commemorate)
5. 2m/440MHz FM Sprint Contest using Townships Instead of Grids as Multiplier

Meeting was called to adjourn at 8:40 PM by Dave, W9LKH

Respectfully submitted by TJ, W9QHY – secretary

ACARTS JANUARY 2017 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Dave, W9LKH.

Dave announced that Joseph, K9RFZ, had secured conference rooms C and D at the Red Cross as the location for the ACARTS General Meetings in 2017. Joseph explained the entry procedures. Dave added that the January meeting would be a planning meeting to hear the members' views and ideas as to what kind of programs and activities they would like ACARTS to have in 2017.

The idea of having the board meeting immediately before the general meeting was discussed. It was decided to keep the present schedule of holding the board meeting on the second Tuesday of the month would continue.

Dave announced that there would be no ACARTS general meeting in February,

and that it would be replaced by the annual SKYWARN training at the Public Safety Academy on our regular meeting night.

Joseph, K9RFZ, presented the letter that he had prepared inviting new hams to an ACARTS meeting and offering them a free one year membership. He stated that he was sending copies to the new hams that were licensed in Allen County during the last two months.

Howard, N9ADS, presented the proposed ACARTS budget for 2017. After some discussion, a motion was made by Joseph, K9RFZ and seconded by Jim, KB9IH, to accept the budget as proposed. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Dave, W9LKH, asked if holding the Spring Banquet at Hall's Guesthouse again was okay or if anyone had any other ideas. No one suggested anywhere else,

so Dave said that he would make reservations at the Guesthouse for the April event.

The status and make-up of the Hamfest Steering Committee was discussed. Jim, KB9IH, stated that he would try to arrange the first meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

NOTE: At this time, the board meetings will still be held at the Salvation Army Center, 2901 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN at 7:00 PM.



Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

As DXers, it is likely that we've all dreamed about improving our station. Improvements fall into two general categories – equipment and antennas. For equipment improvements, we have word of mouth from others and product reviews in the QST and CQ magazines. For antennas, we have word of mouth and the same product reviews for commercial offerings. But many like to roll their own antenna, and here's where antenna modeling software plays a big role.

This month's column is not a tutorial on how to model antennas – that is well covered in published articles (for example, W4RNL's four-part series in the November 2000, December 2000, January 2001 and February 2001 issues of QST). This month's purpose is to briefly review the types of grounds available in the modeling software so that you can achieve the best results possible.

How many types of grounds are available? There are five options in modeling software using the NEC (Numerical Electromagnetics Code) core. Note that we're not addressing MININEC here – that's another subject that is covered in W7EL's article in the February 1991 QST.

The first option is free space. As the

WHICH GROUND SHOULD I USE?

name implies, free space means there's nothing underneath the antenna. Using the free space option is great for optimizing Yagi antenna parameters over wide bandwidths (many calculations without having to take into account the effect of a ground), and for comparing antennas.

The second option is perfect ground. As its name implies, the ground is akin to a sheet of metal or saltwater extended forever. This option is useful to see the pattern of an antenna under ideal conditions.

The third option is MININEC ground. This option uses perfect ground for impedance calculations and a user-specified ground (in terms of conductivity and dielectric constant) for far-field pattern calculations. The results should be accurate in terms of the far-field pattern, but you should be wary of the resulting feed point impedance.

The fourth option is fast ground. This is a hybrid type of ground that makes certain simplifying assumptions to speed up the calculations. With today's high-speed computers, this option is not really needed anymore.

The fifth option is Sommerfeld-Norton ground. This option is also known as high accuracy ground. This option is the preferred option when you include ground in your modeling. It's important to note that the NEC-2 engine does not allow wires to be connected to ground nor buried under ground. This limitation certainly hinders modeling verticals with buried radials, verticals simply tied to ground, and Beverages. The NEC-4 engine does not have this limitation, but it is not in the public domain – you must buy a license for it and then buy the NEC-4 engine software. The Sommerfeld-Norton ground also allows

you to model wires very close to ground – in terms of a fraction of a wavelength. You may also want to read N6LF's QEX article at <http://rudys.typepad.com/files/qexjul-aug-2016-bog.pdf> for his comparison of modeled versus measured results of various antennas.

To see the differences with the various ground options, I modeled my 80-Meter inverted-vee at 35 feet (I use it for QIN – the Indiana CW traffic net) with the five ground options, and compared several parameters. I also included the measured SWR of the real-world inverted-vee. See the accompanying table.

Although you have five options for ground, I strongly recommend using the Sommerfeld-Norton option in your real-world modeling efforts for results that should be very close to the actual performance.



K9LA on Ham Talk Live!

On the Ham Talk Live! show, Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, answered questions about sunspot cycles and how they affect radio propagation. The show, episode 48, can be heard at:

<https://www.spreaker.com/user/ham-talklive/episode-48-sunspots-and-propagation-with>

The charts that Carl references during the show can be viewed here:

<https://twitter.com/HamTalkLive/status/822234966444621828>

Ground Option	Frequency	Feed Point Z	SWR	Gain at 15 Degree Elevation
Free Space	3.55 MHz	59.0 - j43.7	2.23	+2.0 dBi
Perfect Gnd	3.55 MHz	22.9 + j1.63	2.18	-3.0 dBi
MININEC	3.55 MHz	22.9 + j1.63	2.18	-3.0 dBi
Fast	3.55 MHz	41.5 - j10.3	1.34	-6.0 dBi
Somerfield-Norton	3.55 MHz	53.2 + j0.15	1.06	-6.0 dBi
Measured	3.55 MHz	-----	1.10	-----

2017 Foxhunt Plans - Continued from Page 1

The high-power fox transmits for one minute every five minutes starting at the nominal 13:30 hunt start time.



The microfox transmits for one minute immediately following the end of each high-power fox transmission. However, at the discretion of the fox, if desired, the microfox may be programmed to transmit an additional one minute cycle in between its normal transmissions following the high-power fox. So, for example, the transmitting sequence during a hunt might be:

13:30:00 to 13:30:59 high-power fox transmits,
 13:31:00 to 13:31:59 micro-fox transmits,
 13:34:00 to 13:34:59 micro-fox transmits,
 13:35:00 to 13:36:59 high-power fox transmits,
 and so forth.

Scoring rules are as follows:

When a foxhunter physically locates and eye-balls the fox, (normally the micro-fox), he/she will notify the fox who will note the time.

If there are N foxhunter teams, each member of the first team to find the fox receives N points, and the first person in that team that found the fox receives N+1 points. All members of the second team to find the fox receive N-1 points. All members of the third team to find the fox receive N-2 points, and so forth.

The person or team that function as the fox each receive a score equal to the sum of the number of points earned by each of the hunters divided by the number of foxhunter teams. In other words, their score = $(\sum (\text{points earned by each hunter})) / (\text{number of hunter teams})$.

For example, based upon the results of the February 2015 foxhunt, the scoring plan resulted in the numbers in the following table:

Call	Team No.	Team Order of Finding Fox	First to Find Fox	Foxhunt Score
KC9MUT	1	1st	X	4
KC9EZP	1	1st		3
KC9UHU	1	1st		3
W9SAN	2	2nd		2
W9LAN	2	2nd		2
KB9DOS	3	3rd		1
KB9DOT	3	3rd		1
K9OMA	Fox			5.33
KA9YYI	Fox			5.33
WB9RUS	Fox			5.33
WB9SSE	Fox			5.33



The fox frequency (both high power, and the microfox) is 146.430 MHz. The 146.760/.160 repeater is used for intercom purposes if needed.

We generally meet at a restaurant or ice cream shop following the hunt to partake in a light meal, and trade comments and lies about the hunt. (Now, if anyone wants to bring a pre-hunt snack to the Cobin Memorial Park starting point for all of their fellow hunters to participate in, it is highly recommended that they bring meat balls thus keeping with a tried and true ham radio tradition dating back to the early 1920's).

So please, mark your calendar for the first hunt on the 5th of February and join in on the fun.

Al Burke, WB9SSE

LOCAL SKYWARN NET CHANGES NAME

By Jay Farlow, W9LW, net manager,
Allen County SKYWARN Net

The amateur radio SKYWARN net based in Fort Wayne will undergo slight changes, effective Feb 1, 2016. Formerly known as the IMO SKYWARN Quadrant Two Net, it will now be referred to as the **Allen County SKYWARN Net**. The net will continue, however, to accept and relay reports from spotters outside Allen County, including stations in places like DeKalb and Defiance County, which were not officially part of the former quadrant net's responsibility.

The de facto demise of the IMO SKYWARN organization led to the change. IMO SKYWARN's fade from existence was symbolized by the recent disappearance of the organization's website and further indicated by its board's lack of activity for the past few years (a conference call in 2012 was the board's most recent meeting).

IMO SKYWARN originally formed to implement an organized system to get reports from trained SKYWARN storm spotters to the Northern Indiana National Weather Service office via amateur radio. That system continues to exist. An amateur radio station at the NWS office (WX9IWX) can still simultaneously monitor four repeaters, including one in Fort Wayne, although recent difficulty staffing WX9IWX with volunteer hams has hampered the system. IMO SKYWARN also organized biennial advanced spotter training seminars in the past, but has not produced such an event since 2011.

Amateur radio continues to be an important resource to the NWS SKYWARN program as evidenced by a [memorandum of understanding](#) between the ARRL and the NWS. Spotter reports to many local ham radio nets, however, no longer travel all the way to the NWS via amateur radio. Instead, many local nets send their reports to the NWS via a private NWS internet chatroom known as NWSSchat. In fact, our local net has used that method during several activations when WX9IWX was not on the air, including the August 24, 2016 tornado outbreak. Despite the

popularity of NWSSchat, the leadership of the Allen County SKYWARN Net intend for the net to remain a viable alternative in the event of internet failure, assuming WX9IWX can be staffed at such times.

Speaking of net leadership, it remains in the hands of the same people, with former IMO SKYWARN quadrant director Jay Farlow, W9LW, continuing the functional role of net manager, and the following experienced hams continuing as designated net control station (NCS) operators:

- Rich, Andrew N9HRA
- Chad Beach, W9GGA
- Fred Gengnagel, KC9EZP
- Steve Haxby, N9MEL
- Bernie Holm, K9JDF
- Brian Jenks, W9BGJ
- Jim Moehring, KB9WWM, Allen County ARES Emergency Coordinator
- Joel Tye, KB9RH
- Woody Woodbury KC9CGN

The net continues to seek additional NCS's. Contact Farlow at the email address below for more information.

Other than the net name, the only change operators might notice is that the net repeater might enter "standby mode" less often. As a quadrant net, it entered standby mode for any severe thunderstorm watch or tornado watch that affected any of the 11 counties in its quadrant, if an NCS was available. NCS's will continue to have discretion about when to enter standby mode, but revised net procedures **will no longer require** standby mode for watches that do not include Allen County. To repeat, however, ***the net will continue to accept reports from any station that can reach the net repeater, regardless of location.*** And spotter traffic from a nearby county may continue to prompt a directed net, even if severe weather isn't threatening Allen County.

Anyone who'd like to see details of how the net will now operate may [download an updated net operations manual from the FWRC website](#). Persons with questions about the net are encouraged to direct them to Farlow, w9lw@arrl.net.

Upcoming training opportunities

SKYWARN storm spotters have several opportunities for training over the next two months.

NWS Training, Feb. 21

Annual, in-person training for SKYWARN storm spotters, presented by the NWS, is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 21 at the Public Safety Academy: Ivy Tech South Campus at 7602 Patriot Crossing on the south side of Fort Wayne. Register at www.weather.gov/iwx/spotter_event_list. For more information, see the January issue of this newsletter.

DuPage County Advanced Severe Weather Seminar, March 11

The DuPage County, Illinois Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management hosts this day-long advanced spotter seminar Saturday, March 11, at the Todd M. Beamer Center on the campus of Wheaton College, 412 N. Chase Street, Wheaton, Ill. This event requires pre-registration and routinely sells out well in advance, so if you wish to attend, register as soon as possible at: www.du-pageco.org/weatherseminar/.

Ohio State University Severe Weather Symposium, March 24

The Ohio State University Meteorology Club hosts this day-long symposium Friday, March 24, in the Ohio Union on the campus of The Ohio State University, 1739 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio. Obtain more information and reserve your spot at u.osu.edu/metclub/symposium/2017-symposium-2/.

Special Event Stations This Month		
Groundhog Day		
Feb 4	1400Z - 2100Z	K3HWJ
http://punxyclub.com		
George Washington's Birthday		
Feb 18-19	0900Z - 0900Z	K4US
http://www.mvarc.org/		

For a complete listing of special event stations, check the ARRL web page:

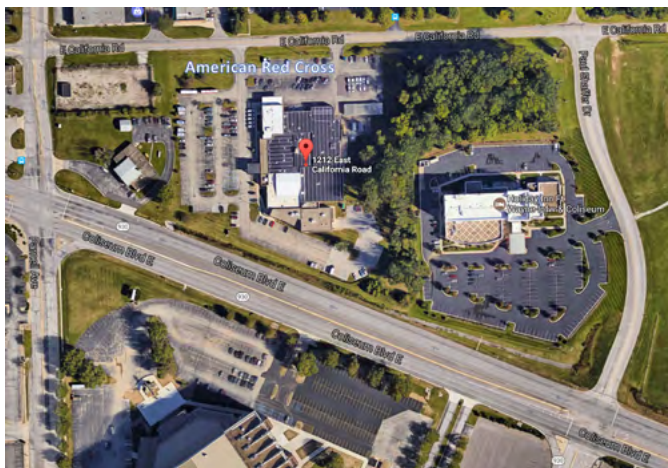
www.arrl.org/special-event-stations

ACARTS GENERAL MEETINGS NOW HELD AT THE RED CROSS FACILITY ON EAST CALIFORNIA RD

Joseph, K9RFZ, has secured the use of conference rooms C and D at the American Red Cross Center for the ACARTS General Meetings this year. This is a much larger space than we had at the Salvation Army, and it comes complete with the use of A/V equipment. It is located on the north side of Coliseum Blvd across from the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. The parking lot access is from East California Road. The address is:

American Red Cross Center
1212 E California Rd
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

On meeting nights, members should enter via the main lobby door on the west side of the building. The door will be locked, so we need to have a greeter



guard staffs the reception desk and she can open the front door for any late arriving members.

There should be plenty of parking after hours on the west side of the building nearest the main lobby. The parking lot is well lit. Entrance to the parking lot is off California Road either by turning east from Parnell or turn-

stationed there. Each person who enters will need to sign the visitor log at the reception desk. We will also sign out after meetings. Sometime around 7:00 p.m., a

ing at the light on Coliseum Blvd next to the Holiday Inn across from the Memorial Coliseum.

A Couple More FWRC Auction Photos



YOUTUBE VIDEOS BY LOCAL HAM KB9RLW



Here is a link to Kevin's KB9RLW - YouTube channel, very nice videos and very well done.

I thought everyone would be interested in these videos so here is the link:

www.youtube.com/user/loughkb/videos

Kevin checks into the Little Red Barn Net on 3.820 MHz at 8:30 AM, and is a local ham here in Fort Wayne so thought I would send out his link for those and others to enjoy.

Please give him a Thumb's up if you like his video!!

Enjoy

73

Tom - KU8T

CONTEST CALENDAR

Here are a few of the contests that will be held in the next few weeks. Please refer to the contest web sites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Some of the places on-line with information on contests include:

ARRL Contest Corral Web page www.arrl.org/contests

ARRL's National Contest Journal www.arrl.org/ncj

ARRL Contest Update www.arrl.org/contest-update-issues

Contesting On-Line www.contesting.com

WA7BNM Contest Calendar www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/

DXNews <http://dxnews.com>

DX Zone Contesting www.dxzone.com/catalog/Contesting/

ARRL Contest Calendar www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

VERMONT QSO PARTY			MINNESOTA QSO PARTY			BRITISH COLUMBIA QSO PARTY		
FEBRUARY 4, 0000Z			FEBRUARY 4, 1400Z			FEBRUARY 4, 1600Z		
FEBRUARY 5, 2359Z			FEBRUARY 4, 2359Z			FEBRUARY 5, 0400Z		
1.8-28	50+	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL	1.8-28	-	PHONE, CW	1.8-28	-	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL
RS(T), COUNTY OR SPC			NAME, COUNTRY OR SPC			RS(T), BC DISTRICT OR SPC		
www.ranv.org/vtqso.html			www.w0aa.org			http://orcadxcc.org/bcqp_rules.html		
NORTH AMERICAN SPRINT, CW			ARRL SCHOOL CLUB ROUNDUP			ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST, CW		
FEBRUARY 5, 0000Z			FEBRUARY 13, 1300Z			FEBRUARY 18, 0000Z		
FEBRUARY 5, 0400Z			FEBRUARY 17, 2359Z			FEBRUARY 19, 2359Z		
3.5-14	-	CW	1.8-28	50+	PHONE, CW	1.8-28	-	CW
OTHER'S CALL, YOUR CALL, SERIAL, NAME, SPC			RS(T), CLASS (I/C/S), SPC			RST, SP (DX: POWER)		
http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf			www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup			www.arrl.org/arrl-dx		
NORTH AMERICAN QSO PARTY, RTTY			SOUTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY			NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY		
FEBRUARY 25, 1800Z			FEBRUARY 25, 1500Z			FEBRUARY 26, 1500Z		
FEBRUARY 26, 0559Z			FEBRUARY 26, 0159Z			FEBRUARY 27, 0059Z		
3.5-28	-	DIGITAL	1.8-28	50	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL	3.5-28	50,144	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL
NAME, SPC			RS(T), COUNTY OR SPC			COUNTY OR SPC		
www.ncjweb.com			http://scqso.com/rules/			http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty/		

ACARTS (W9INX) REPEATERS			FWRC (W9TE) REPEATERS			OTHER AREA REPEATERS			
Freq/Offset	Input Tone		Freq/Offset	Input Tone		Call	Freq/ Offset	Input Tone	
146.880 (-)	No tone	General use / Skywarn priority	146.760 (-)	No tone	General use (Note 1)	W9FEZ	145.330 (-)	No tone	Fort Wayne
147.255 (+)	No tone	General use	146.910 (-)	No tone	General use (Notes 1 and 4)	W9FEZ	224.780 (-)	No tone	Fort Wayne (Note 1)
443.800 (+)	No tone	General use	146.940 (-)	141.3 Hz required	General use (Notes 1 and 3)	W9FEZ	444.800 (+)	No tone	Fort Wayne (Note 1)
144.390 (s)	Digital	APRS - wide	444.875 (+)	141.3 Hz required	General use (Note 1)	K9MMQ	443.100 (+)	N/A	Fort Wayne, DMR
145.530 (s)	Digital	W9INX-1 Digipeater and Node	442.99375	D-STAR	General use (Note 2)	K9MMQ	443.275 (+)	141.3 Hz required	Fort Wayne
Notes: General Note: Standard 0.6 MHz (2-meter), 1.6 MHz (1.25-meter) and 5.0 MHz (70-cm) frequency offsets are used for all repeaters unless otherwise indicated.			Notes: 1. 141.3 Hz output tone present 2. Offset + 5.0 MHz, W9TE ___ B, W9TE ___ G 3. Yaesu System Fusion repeater, supports both FM (analog) and C4FM (digital) voice 4. EchoLink connection repeater Node number 519521			N9MTF	442.6375 (+)	N/A	Fort Wayne, DMR
						WD9AVW	444.250 (+)	131.8 Hz required	Fort Wayne
						W9OU	147.015 (+)	No tone	Auburn
						WC9AR	145.270 (-)	131.8 Hz required	Columbia City
						WC9AR	444.550 (+)	131.8 Hz required	Columbia City
						K9HC	146.685 (-)	141.3 Hz required	Huntington
						N9BCP	147.150 (+)	97.4 Hz required	Ligonier
Articles, photographs, and classified ads for publication in the Allen County HamNews should be emailed to the newsletter editor at AB9ZD(at)ARRL.NET several days before the first of the month. If you notice information that needs changed, please contact the newsletter editor by email. The Allen County HamNews is prepared using Adobe's InDesign software along with PhotoShop and Acrobat on an i7 PC running Windows 10.						Notes: 1. 141.3 Hz output tone present			

Membership Application for ☐ ACARTS OR ☐ FWRC

Name: _____ Call sign: _____ License class: _____
 Street address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP : _____ - _____ Phone #: (_____) _____ - _____ Unlisted? ☐ Yes
 Email address: _____ ARRL Member? ☐ Yes

(ARRL membership helps your club maintain affiliation.)

May we list your name, call & email address in our membership roster and on our club web site? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Both clubs now offer this newsletter as a downloadable (Adobe Acrobat) PDF file, in lieu of a paper copy sent through the mail. For FWRC a mailed paper newsletter is a \$20.00/yr. premium.

How would you like your newsletter delivered? ☐ by snail mail ☐ download from web site.

A.C.A.R.T.S. Dues

Regular membership ☐ \$12.00 / year
 Additional family members¹ ☐ \$6.00 / year
 Student membership² ☐ \$6.00 / year
 Associate membership³ ☐ \$6.00 / year
 (New Regular memberships are \$1/month)

Fort Wayne Radio Club Dues

Regular membership ☐ \$20.00 / year
 Family membership¹ ☐ \$30.00 / year
 Student membership² ☐ \$5.00 / year
 Associate membership³ ☐ \$20.00 / year
 Mailed newsletter premium ☐ \$25.00 / year
 (Memberships for Jul - Dec are 1/2 the stated amounts.)

1. Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.

2. K-12 or full time student

3. Unlicensed member

Please attach a check (number _____) for the appropriate amount and bring to a club meeting or mail to:

ACARTS

PO Box 10342

Fort Wayne, IN 46851-0342

Fort Wayne Radio Club.

PO Box 15127

Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5127

For dual membership, send a check to each club for your respective membership. Payment by check is strongly encouraged!

Classified Ads

Items for Sale

Want to Buy



If you have something you would like to have listed in the classified section then please send an email to the newsletter editor at **AB9ZD(at)ARRL.NET**.

57th Annual Michigan Crossroads

Hamfest & Radio Swap

Saturday, March 18, 2017

Wings Event Center 3600 Vanrick Drive,
 Kalamazoo Township, MI 49001

www.w8df.com/hamfest/hamfest2017.pdf

AREA NETS

Daily			Tuesday		
8:00 AM	3.535	Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net	8:00 PM	50.580 USB	FWRC 6 Meter Net
8:30 AM	3.940	Daily Indiana Traffic Net	9:00 PM	146.940-	Allen Co. ARES Training Net
6:00 PM	3.940	Daily Indiana Traffic Net	Wednesday		
6:30 PM	146.880-	IMO (alternate is 146.760)	7:00 PM	146.760-	FWRCYL Net
7:00 PM	147.015+	Tri State Two Meter Net	7:30 PM	147.150+	21 Repeater Group
8:00 PM	3.535	Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net	8:00 PM	145.270-	Whitley Co. ARES (131.8 PL disabled)
Week Days			9:00 PM	146.940-	Help and Swap Net
8:30 AM	3.820	Little Red Barn Net	Thursday		
Sunday			7:30 PM	D-STAR	Indiana D-STAR net (Note 3)
8:00 PM	444.550+	Whitley Co. Sunday (131.8 PL)	8:00 PM	50.580 AM	6 Meter AM Net
8:30 PM	1.965 & 146.910-	"No-Name" Net also on EchoLink Node number 519521	8:30 PM	145.510 (s)	Allen County ARES Digital Operations Team Training Net (Note 4)
9:00 PM	145.530	Northeast Indiana Packet Net (Note 2)	Saturday		
Monday			8:00 PM	146.685-	Huntington ARES
8:00 PM	224.780-	Fort Wayne 224 Net			

1. All times local time. **Any changes or corrections should be submitted to the newsletter editor at AB9ZD (at) ARRL.NET.**

2. On 145.530 @ 1200 baud. Use unconnected converse mode to communicate for a roundtable net setting. Use your "UNPROTO" command or equivalent to set Digi path(s) through the strongest station(s) needed between you and your destination. Only use those that are necessary! Have all your "Monitor" settings on so you can see everyone.

3. 1st and 3rd Thursday, Reflector REF024B.

4. Net starts using BPSK-31 and switches to BPSK-250 after roll call to pass traffic etc. NBEMS suite of software (FLDIGI, FLMSG, and FLAMP) is preferred.

5. Indiana HF Traffic Nets Web Site: <http://www.inarrl.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts>

To:

Activities Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Place
02/05/2016	1:30 PM	Foxhunt - River Greenway Trailhead/Cobin Memorial Park near Lakeside Golf Course	
02/07/2017	7:00 PM	FWRC Board Meeting	GSUMC
02/14/2017	7:00 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Facility
02/21/2017	7:00 PM	ACARTS & FWRC SKYWARN Spotter Training	Public Safety Academy
03/05/2016	1:30 PM	Foxhunt - River Greenway Trailhead/Cobin Memorial Park near Lakeside Golf Course	
03/07/2017	7:00 PM	FWRC Board Meeting	GSUMC
03/14/2017	7:00 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Facility
03/17/2017	7:00 PM	FWRC General Meeting	GSUMC
03/21/2017	7:00 PM	ACARTS General Meeting	American Red Cross
11/18/2017		Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo	
11/19/2017		Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo	